

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **December 30, 2004** the examiner reviewed claims 1-30. Claims 1-8, 10-18, 20-28, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Eldon Hansen (*Global Optimization using Interval Analysis*, hereinafter "Hansen"). Claims 9, 19, and 29 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Independent claims 1, 11, and 21 were rejected as being anticipated by Hansen.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 11, and 21 to include allowable limitations from dependent claims 9, 19, and 29, respectively.


Dependent claims 9, 19, and 29 have been canceled without prejudice.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 21 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-8 and 10, which depend upon claim 1, claims 12-18 and 20, which depend upon claim 11, and claims 22-28 and 30, which depend upon claim 21, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Edward J. Grundler
Registration No. 47,615

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Edward J. Grundler
PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP
2820 Fifth Street
Davis, CA 95616
Tel: (530) 759-1663
FAX: (530) 759-1665